

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 9-14, 24, 28-30 and 32 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if written in independent form. Applicant respectfully points out that multiple dependent claim 31 also contains allowable subject matter when amended to depend only from allowable claims. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, claim 5 has been written in independent form. Also, claim 9 has been written in independent form with claims 10 and 11 depending therefrom. Claim 12 has been written in independent form with claims 13 and 14 depending therefrom. Claim 24 has been written in independent form, as has claim 28. Claim 31 has been amended to depend from only allowable claims 24, 28 and 29.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-23, 25-27, 31 and 33-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sandoval in view of Tobagi et al. While this rejection is respectfully traversed, in order to obtain immediate allowance of the subject application, these claims, except for claim 31, which is amended to depend only from allowable claims, have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to the filing of further applications containing the subject matter of the canceled claims.

In view of the foregoing, only claims identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter remain in this application. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Washington, D.C. telephone number 202-293-7060 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/568,440

Attorney Docket No.: Q93191

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Howard L. Bernstein/

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